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C O N F I D E N T I A L VILNIUS 000284

SIPDIS

DEPT TO EUR/NB, EUR/UMB

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/16/2016

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SUBJECT: GOL TO FOCUS ON BELARUS DURING MARCH 20 FOREIGN
MINISTERS MEETING (GAERC)

REF: A. STATE 39905 B. VILNIUS 278

Classified By: Pol/Econ Traver Gudie for reasons 1.4(b/d)

1. (C) We delivered points in reftel A to Tomas Gulbinas, head of the MFA's Common Foreign and Security Policy Division, March 16. Gulbinas, who is traveling with the Foreign Minister to the meeting, said that he would consider our points before the Minister's pre-brief March 17, but that he did not expect Lithuania to intervene on any issue besides Belarus. He added that, although Belarus is not formally on the agenda, the Austrian presidency has agreed to discuss it the morning of March 20, with an eye towards a common EU statement during the European Council meeting March 23 (ref B).

Iran

2. (C) Although Lithuania does not intend to intervene on Iran, Gulbinas said that the GOL is waiting to see what action the UNSC will take, and agreed that the EU must discuss how to best use its leverage with over Iran.

Balkans

3. (C) Gulbinas commented that he did not expect the ministers to discuss the Balkans at all, as they recently covered Balkan issues during the informal ministerial in Salzburg March 11.

Sudan

4. (C) Gulbinas said that he had information that Sudan would be dropped from the formal agenda.
MULL